

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES, IVP NOMINEE IVAN SLAVKOV

REF: STATE 127563, SOFIA 69

1. EMBASSY HERewith NOMINATES DIRECTOR OF BULGARIAN TELEVISION, IVAN SLAVKOV, FOR 14-DAY PARTIAL IVP GRANT.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SLAVKOV IS ONE OF HIGHEST RANKING BULGARIANS TO HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO VISIT U.S. ALTHOUGH HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF TELEVISION IN THE COUNTRY IN ITSELF JUSTIFIES A GRANT, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT HE IS ALSO THE SON-IN-LAW OF BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY TODOR ZHIVKOV.

3. SLAVKOV IS LEAVING BULGARIA JULY 3 FOR TEN-DAY VISIT TO ARGENTINA AND WOULD LIKE TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON JULY 10 OR 11. HE IS PRIMARILY

INTERESTED IN SEEING ADMINISTRATION AND PRODUCTION ASPECTS OF U.S. TELEVISION, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SOME GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO GET BETTER FEEL FOR US DETENTE POLICY. SLAVKOV ALSO WISHES TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGES AND PURCHASES OF U.S. TELEVISION MATERIALS, INCLUDING FILMS AND SERIALS. HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SMALL TV STATION (PREFERABLE PBS AFFILIATE) AND CONCLUDE VISIT WITH MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH TV NETWORK EXECUTIVES.

4. SLAVKOV, 34 YEARS OLD, HAS VISITED WEST GERMANY (1973) AND
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GREAT BRITIAN (1969-1970) TO STUDY TV IN DEPTH. HIS ENGLISH IS

GOOD AND DOES NOT REQUIRE INTERPRETER. SLAVKOV SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT IF GRANT IS POSSIBLE HE DOES NOT WANT ESCORT. HE DOES, HOWEVER, WISH TO TRAVEL WITH IVP GRANTEE TOMA TOMOV PRESENT IN U.S. TOMOV IS PERSONAL FRIEND AS WELL AS SLAVKOV'S SUBORDINATE, AND EMBASSY HOPES THAT COME ACCOMMODATION COULD BE MADE TO MEET THIS REQUEST.

5. EMBASSY WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING PROGRAM BASED ON SLAVKOV'S INTERESTS. TWO OR THREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH SOME GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO WEST COAST TO SEE LARGE TV STUDIOS WITH EMPHASIS ON PRODUCTION END. SLAVKOV MIGHT RETURN TO NEW YORK VIA MIDDLE WEST TO SEE LOCAL TV PROGRAMMING AND CONCLUDE VISIT BY THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH NEW YORK-BASED NETWORKS.

6. SLAVKOV WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. EMBWSSY REQUESTS GRANT TO COVER INTERNAL U.S. TRAVEL AND SUITABLE PER DIEM.

7. VISA STATUS: WE ANTICIPATE NO VISA PROBLEM BUT WILL SEEK WAIVER WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE GRANTED.

8. IN VIEW OF SLAVKOV'S SCHEDULED JULY 3 DEPARTURE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO NOMINATION NO LATER THAN JUNE 29.

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